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Letter dated 8 May 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to the Council a statement dated 7 May 2001 by the First Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Foreign Affairs concerning Uganda's withdrawal of its forces from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I should be grateful if you could bring this statement to the attention of the members and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fred **Beyendeza**
Minister Counsellor/
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 8 May 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement dated 7 May 2001 by the First Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Foreign Affairs on Uganda's troop withdrawal from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Cabinet met on 7 May 2001 to review recent developments in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Cabinet was briefed in detail by H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on these recent developments.

After careful consideration of the matter, as well as recommendations received from the relevant organs of Government and having noted the contents of the letter addressed to H.E. the President from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Cabinet has decided as follows:

1. Uganda will completely withdraw its forces back home from the following positions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

(i) Nasankusu;

(ii) Dongo;

(iii) Gemena;

(iv) Gbadolite;

(v) Lisala;

(vi) Bafasende;

(vii) Isiro;

(viii) Butembo;

(ix) Beni;

(x) Kanyabayonga.

2. The Government will continue to examine the wisdom of maintaining a presence in Buta and Bunia.

3. Uganda will maintain deployment on the western slopes of the Rwenzori mountains until Uganda's security interests have been addressed in accordance with the Lusaka Peace Agreement.

4. The Government has decided that Uganda remains a party to the Lusaka Peace Agreement and arrangements under it, the full implementation of which remains the only viable solution to the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

5. The Government of Uganda will propose that all members of the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community become active players in the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Agreement.

6. The Government of Uganda calls upon all concerned parties to implement the Lusaka Peace Agreement without any further delay. However, the Government of Uganda reserves the right to withdraw unilaterally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Lusaka Peace Agreement if it continues to be dissatisfied with the apparent lack of political will to bring peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region by implementing the Lusaka Peace Agreement faithfully and promptly as originally envisaged.

(*Signed*) Eriya **Kategaya**
First Deputy Prime Minister/
Minister for Foreign Affairs